

which the Miocene *R. pachygnathus*, Wagner, from Pikerini, is the earliest known form, and the four extinct British species, *R. etruscus*, Falc., *R. leptorhinus*, Cuv., *R. hemitechus*, Falc., and *R. tichorhinus*, Cuv., are more or less modified members. The recently discovered *R. deccanensis*, Foote, from South India, appears to belong to it also. The several species found in the Siwalik beds and other parts of South Asia appear to have belonged to the genus *Rhinoceros* as restricted above, with large incisors and one horn.

To include all the extinct members of the family at present known; the genus *Aceratherium*, Kaup, must be added for the species with no horn, large incisors, and four toes on the fore feet, *Diceratherium*, Marsh, for species with indications of a pair of lateral horns on the nasals, and *Hyracodon*, Leidy, for primitive forms without horns and retaining the complete number of forty-four incisor, canine, and molar teeth, the latter of comparatively simple structure without crochet or crista. When we extend our search for Rhinocerotidæ beyond the Miocene period, we find that they cease to be recognizable as such, and become merged into more generalized perissodactyle forms.

4. Further Notes on *Oulodon*, a new Genus of Ziphioid Whales from the New-Zealand Seas. By JULIUS VON HAAST, Ph.D., F.R.S., Director of the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand.

[Received May 1, 1876.]

It will be seen from the following notes that the presence of a row of small teeth in the upper jaw is a constant character in ray *Mesopodon grayi* (P. Z. S. 1876, p. 7); and unless it shall be shown by future researches that other species belonging to the genus *Mesopodon* have similar rows of small teeth and of a permanent character in the upper jaw, I think that the generic term *Oulodon* ought to be applied to the Ziphioid Whales distinguished by that peculiar feature, which, so far as I am aware, no others of the group possess.

Since I had the pleasure to lay the description of the three skulls obtained on the Chatham Islands before the Society, four specimens belonging to the same Ziphioid, which with our local fishermen goes under the name of Cowfish, have been stranded on the coast near Saltwater Creek, about 30 miles north of Banks Peninsula. One of them, a small male (A) about 13 feet long, was washed ashore on the 15th of December, 1875. On the 29th of December another male (B), 12 feet 9 inches long, was stranded, together with a female (D), 17 feet 6 inches long, on the beach a short distance north of the entrance of the Saltwater-Creek Estuary; whilst another male (C), 13 feet 8 inches long, ran the same day into that small estuary, and was left high and dry by the receding tide.

As I was fortunate enough to obtain two of these skeletons complete, I shall be able to send one of them to my friend Prof. W. H. Flower as a type specimen, and for description; and I therefore leave the osteological details to him. Although the bones are not yet quite macerated, I may state that the female, exceeding by nearly 4 feet the largest male obtained, is a full-grown animal, whilst the three males are all immature specimens. I measured the length of its lower jaw, and find that it is 2 feet 8.50 inches long, consequently nearly 1 inch longer than the lower jaw of the dried skull which I assigned to a full-grown female, and to which it bears a close resemblance. The mandibular tooth could scarcely be felt when passing the finger over the gums of this specimen; and its existence could scarcely have been ascertained in that way had I not known its exact position.

On the other hand, in all the three male skulls the point of the mandibular tooth protruded already, even in the smallest, through the gums, and the more laterally extended size of that portion of the lower jaw was at once discernible. I measured also the lower jaw of the male skull (B), and found it to be 1 foot 11.85 inches long; consequently its size is intermediate between the two Chatham-Island skulls no. ii., of which the lower jaw measures 2 feet 6.03 inches, and of the immature no. iii., which is only 1 foot 7.75 inches long.

All the four skulls possess from seventeen to nineteen teeth on both sides of the roof of the mouth; so that this character can now be claimed as being constant and specific.

As to the external features of this species, its form may be described as being rather elegant; the head is tapering; and the beak-like rostrum runs out to a point, so that it was not inappropriately compared by one of the workmen to the beak of a bird.

The colour of the back is black, getting a little lighter near the tail, where it assumes a dark slate tint; the lower side is reddish brown, near the tail assuming on both sides a more blackish hue.

The blowhole is situated in the centre; it is about 6 inches in diameter, and the corners are directed forward. The animal possesses a large falcate dorsal fin, situated rather backwards; and the pectoral fins are small and somewhat pointed.

The following measurements were taken from the immature male (C):—Total length 13 feet 8 inches; girth round body 18 inches behind pectoral fins, where the animal has its largest size, 9 feet; from point of rostrum to anterior border of pectoral fin, 3 feet 5 inches; from posterior end of dorsal fin to centre of tail-lobes, 4 feet 3 inches.



J. Smit del et lith

M. & N. Hanhart imp

MANUCODIA COMRII

PLATE 11. 1877.



Smith de, et. 1871.

MEGAPODIUS MACGILLIVRAYII

M & N. Harbort. imp.

5. On the Birds collected by Dr. Comrie on the South-east Coast of New Guinea during the Survey of H.M.S. 'Basilisk.' By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

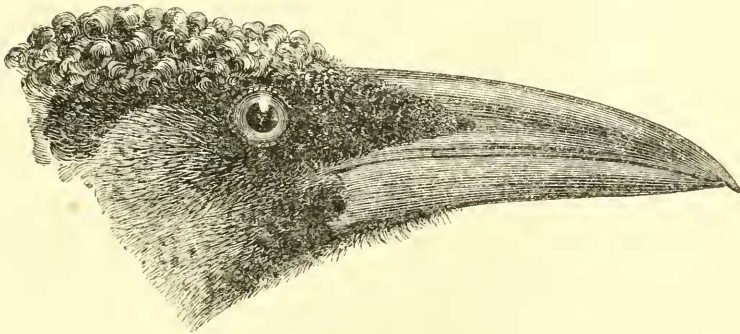
[Received May 15, 1876.]

(Plates XLII. & XLIII.)

Dr. Comrie has placed in my hands for determination some birdskins collected by him while serving as medical officer in H.M.S. 'Basilisk,' during its recent survey of the south-east coast of New Guinea under the command of Capt. Moresby*. The collection contains thirteen skins, belonging to eleven species, of which one is quite new to science, and two others are only known from single specimens. Their names are as follows:—

1. CORVUS ORRU, Bp.

One example from Huon Gulf, south-east coast of New Guinea, nearly opposite New Britain.



Head of *Manucodia comriei*.

2. MANUCODIA COMRII, sp. nov. (Plate XLII.)

Nitidissime sericeo-æneo-viridis, fere unicolor, in ventre purpurascens: capitis cervicisque undique plumis revolutis quasi cincinnatis: alis caudaque intus nigris, extus dorso concoloribus, paulo in purpureum trahentibus: rostro elongato, ad nares sulcato, nigro: pedibus nigris: long. tota 17·0, alæ 9·5, caudæ 7·0, rostri a rictu 2·2, tarsi 1·7.

Hab. Papuæ reg. meridionali-orientalis, Huan-Gulf (Comrie).

This is by far the finest and largest of the peculiar genus now generally termed *Manucodia* (formerly *Phonygama*) yet discovered. It is immediately distinguishable from *M. chalybeia* and *M. atra* by

* See Capt. Moresby's narrative in his 'Discoveries and Surveys in New Guinea and the D'Entrecasteux Islands.' London: 1876. 1 vol. 8vo.

its much larger size and longer bill, which is deeply sulcated at the nostrils. The characteristic curling of the feathers is extended to a greater degree than in *M. chalybeia*, and pervades the whole of the head and neck. The feathers of the abdomen are black at the base, broadly margined with purple.

Dr. Comrie obtained a single specimen of this fine bird in May 1874 in Huan Gulf. It was shot flying amongst the trees in the scrubby forest about a quarter of a mile from the coast.

3. *DACELO GAUDICHAUDI*, Quoy et Gaim.

Huan Gulf, one skin.

4. *LORIUS HYPENOCHROUS*.

Lorius hypinochrous, Gray, List of Psitt. p. 49 (1859); Brenchley's Voy. p. 380, pl. 14.

Domicella hypinochroa, Finsch, Papag. ii. p. 768.

Three skins of this fine Lory were obtained by Dr. Comrie in Possession Bay*, S.E. New Guinea, in April and May 1874. On comparing them with the typical specimen in the British Museum, which was obtained by Macgillivray during the voyage of the 'Rattlesnake' on one of the islands of the Louisiade group, off the S.E. coast of New Guinea, I find that they differ in the absence of the slight black band across the under wing-coverts, which is found in the typical specimen. There is likewise rather more blue on the abdomen of Dr. Comrie's skins. These differences are, in my opinion, too slight to warrant specific separation.

5. *CARPOPHAGA PINON* (Quoy et Gaim.) ; Bp. Consp. ii. p. 37.

6. *CARPOPHAGA SPILORRHOA*, G. R. Gray.

One skin from South-east Cape, New Guinea.

7. *CALÆNAS NICOBARICA* (Linn.).

One skin, obtained in Huan Gulf in April.

8. *MEGAPODIUS MACGILLIVRAYI*. (Plate XLIII.)

Megapodius macgillivrayi, G. R. Gray, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 289, & 1864, p. 43.

A single skin of this little-known Megapode, obtained by Dr. Comrie on the shores of Huan Gulf in May, agrees tolerably well with the typical specimen of the species in the British Museum. The chief difference remarkable is in the more rufescent tinge of the lower back of the present specimen, which may be shortly described as follows:—

Supra fuscescenti-olivaceus, dorso postico rufescentiore: subtus saturate cinereus, hypochondriis et crisso olivaceis: rostro et

* Possession Bay will be found marked in Capt. Moresby's map, p. 1; see also the text, p. 208. It seems to lie between Hayter Island and the opposite south-eastern point of the mainland of New Guinea.

pedibus flavis, unguibus nigris: long. tota circ. 13·0, alæ 8·7, caudæ 3·2, tarsi 2·6.

The figure is taken from Dr. Comrie's skin.

9. *ESACUS MAGNIROSTRIS* (Geoffr.); Gould, B. of Austr. vol. vii. pl. 6.

One example from Huan Gulf.

10. *STERNA MELANAUCHEN* (Temm.).

One skin, obtained in the D'Entrecasteaux Islands in March, is referable to this species, as Mr. Howard Saunders kindly assures me. Mr. Gould has already recorded its occurrence in Torres Straits (B. Austr. vii. pl. 28), where it was obtained by MacGillivray.

11. *PHALACROCORAX*, sp. inc.

A single skin of a young Cormorant, in nearly uniform brown plumage with yellow feet, obtained in Huan Gulf in May.

6. Additional Notes on *Dolichotis salinicola*. By HERMANN BURMEISTER, Director of the National Museum, Buenos Aires, F.M.Z.S.

[Received May 4, 1876.]

Since my former description of this new species of *Dolichotis**, I have been fortunate enough to have two fully adult living specimens sent to me for examination by a gentleman who has had them alive in his house at Santiago del Estero. This gentleman informed me that this species is common in the country to the west of that town, its range beginning in the south near the small town of Chanar, and extending northwards along the borders of the great salina desert as far as Santiago del Estero and the river Dulce, where the country has the same sterile character, but not into the much more fertile region of the Province of Tucuman more to the north. Especially in the vicinity of Posta del monte and of the village of Piedritas near Chanar the animal is very common. The two living specimens, which are now under my inspection, show that my former description was taken from very young specimens of about half their full size, and that this northern species comes much nearer in size to the southern species (*D. patagonica*) than I was formerly led to suppose.

A fully adult specimen agrees very closely in size and colour with the Patagonian species, only differing slightly in some shades of colour and in shape. The head is somewhat shorter and stouter, more especially the anterior portion from the nose to the eyes (which was already indicated in the skull of the young animal), although the space between the nasals and the intermaxillaries is much longer, this space equalling half the length of the nasals in the northern species, and not more than one third in the southern;

* See P. Z. S. 1875, p. 634.

also the legs are somewhat shorter in the northern species, and the body is broader behind. There is considerable difference in the coloration between the young and adult. As is shown by my figure and description of the former, the reddish-yellow tint is mixed with the grey over the whole upper surface, leaving the underside white, separated at the sides from the more homogeneous reddish grey colour of the upper surface. In the adult these three colours are more completely separated from each other, only the middle of the back being grey, the sides of the body yellow, and the underside white. This separation, already indicated on the head of the young animal, is continued as it becomes older over the whole body, as is also the case in the Patagonian species, which shows the grey on the front of the body gradually getting darker towards the rump, where it is nearly black. This black shade very well marks the specific difference between the two species; for in the northern (*D. salinicola*) the grey colour is more clear and of a more pure whitish-grey; but in the southern species (*D. patagonica*) the tint is somewhat yellower, resembling more an ash-grey. From the middle of the back this colour becomes darker in both species, till it forms over the region of the pelvis a large dark patch, the posterior edge of which is sharply defined from the white of the lower parts in a transverse line, which crosses the rudimentary tail, and extends to the haunches, where the white and yellow colours are shaded into each other. This patch affords a good diagnostic character for the separation of the species, its colour in the Patagonian species being blackish brown and in the northern species blackish-grey; for in the latter there are a number of white punctuations which are totally wanting in the former. In all other respects the colour is the same; so that many observers would believe the new species to be only a variety of the other species, if they were not aware of the differences in the skulls already pointed out in my former description.

I regret not being able to give any further particulars as regards the skull and skeleton of this *Dolichotis*, as I was not allowed to kill one of the specimens; but as soon as one of them dies I will send to the Society a full description of it.

Buenos Aires, 28th March, 1876.

June 6, 1876.

Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of May 1876 was read by the Secretary:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of May 1876 was 99, of which 23 were by birth, 33 were by presentation, 28 by purchase, 4 by exchange, and 11 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period by death and removals was 115.

The most noticeable additions during the month were:—

1. A fine specimen of the Tooth-billed Pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*), purchased May 9th, being the third example of this rare bird received alive by the Society.